

Amendments to the Specification

- 1) Please insert the following subtitle at page 1, below the title:

Background

- 2) Please insert the following subtitle at page 2, line 30:

Summary

- 3) Please delete the text found at page 4, lines 15 – 32.

- 4) Please insert the following subtitle and text at page 4, line 34:

Brief Description of the Drawings

For a further understanding of the nature and objects for the present invention, reference should be made to the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like elements are given the same or analogous reference numbers and wherein:

- Figure 1 illustrates one embodiment according to the invention, of a power producing device based upon a fuel cell;
- Figure 1A illustrates a different view of the power producing device shown in Figure 1;
- Figure 2 illustrates a sectional view of two valve elements, according to one embodiment of the present invention;
- Figure 3 illustrates a second sectional view of two valve elements, according to another embodiment of the present invention; and
- Figure 4 illustrates another embodiment according to the invention, of a power producing device based upon a fuel cell.

- 5) Please insert the following subtitle after the above-inserted paragraphs:

Description of Preferred Embodiments

- 6) Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 34, with the following:

The power-producing device, as illustrated in ~~figures~~ Figures 1 and 1A, comprises a fuel cell pack denoted overall by the reference 2, for example of the type described in the French application filed on March 6, 2002, under number 02 02843, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

- 7) Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 15, with the following:

The device additionally comprises a fluid connection unit 22, also mounted on the support plate 6, provided with several, typically four, valve elements or closable connectors 24₁ to 24₄ arranged in a defined pattern on one face (the front face in ~~figure~~ Figure 1) of this unit 22, at the outlet of four orifices in this unit. These various valve elements will be described in more detail hereinafter.

- 8) Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 24, with the following:

When the cell pack 2 is not mounted on the support plate 6, each valve element 24₁ and 30₁ is in its closed position, illustrated in ~~figure~~ Figure 2. Consequently, it is not possible for any fluid to be discharged either from the cell pack 2 or from the fluid connection unit 22. Furthermore, any input of external air is avoided.

- 9) Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 36, with the following:

To this end, the cell pack 2 is brought together with the connection unit 22, assumed to be fixed, in the main direction of the valve elements (referenced A in ~~figures~~ Figures 2 and 3), namely the main direction of the hollow bodies 34 or 54. It will be noted that such an operation is made possible by virtue of the fact that, on the one hand, the main axes of the valve elements 30₁ to 30₄ are parallel to one another and that, on the other hand, the main axes of the valve elements 24₁ to 24₄ are also parallel to one another.

- 10) Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 9, with the following:

The power-producing device also includes a support plate 106 which is permanently fixed, for example against a wall 107. This plate 106 is provided with the various elements 8 to 20 described with reference to ~~figures~~ Figures 1 and 1A but not represented in this ~~figure~~ Figure 4.

- 11) Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 18, with the following:

The power-producing device represented in ~~figure~~ Figure 4 is particularly convenient to use. Thus, the user is able to disconnect from the support plate 106 one or other of the cell packs 102, 102' or 102'' in the event of failure. Such an operation is additionally facilitated by the presence of the handles 103, 103' and 103''.

- 12) Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 1, with the following:

According to one characteristic of the invention, the support plate 6 or 106, additionally providing circulation of the fluids, is made of a plastic by injection molding or compression molding. It is also conceivable for the major part of the various valve elements with which the cell pack or the fluid connection unit are equipped to be made of such a plastic. In this regard, only the springs, referenced 46 and 66 in ~~figures~~ Figures 2 and 3, are then formed of another material, particularly metal.

- 13) Please insert the following paragraph at page 12, line 20:

It will be understood that many additional changes in the details, materials, steps and arrangement of parts, which have been herein described in order to explain the nature of the invention, may be made by those skilled in the art within the principle and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the specific embodiments in the examples given above.

- 14) Please replace the subtitle at page 13, line 1, with the following text:
~~CLAIMS~~ What is claimed is: